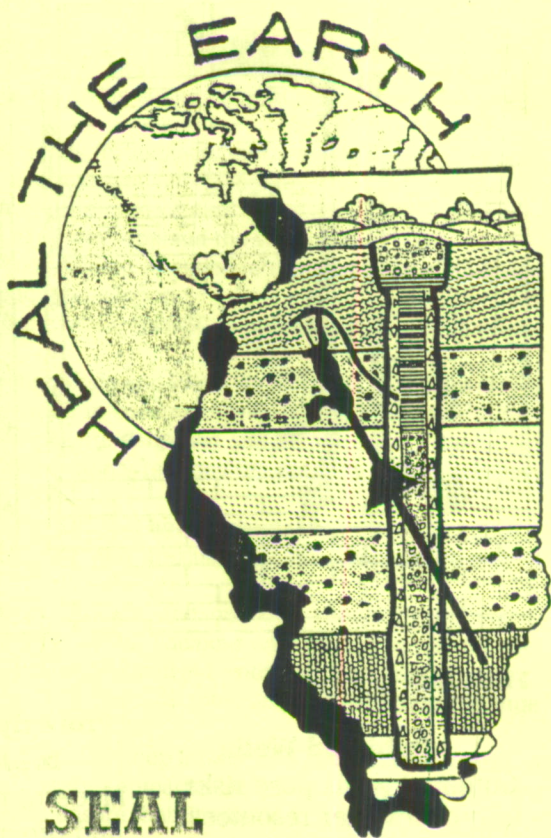
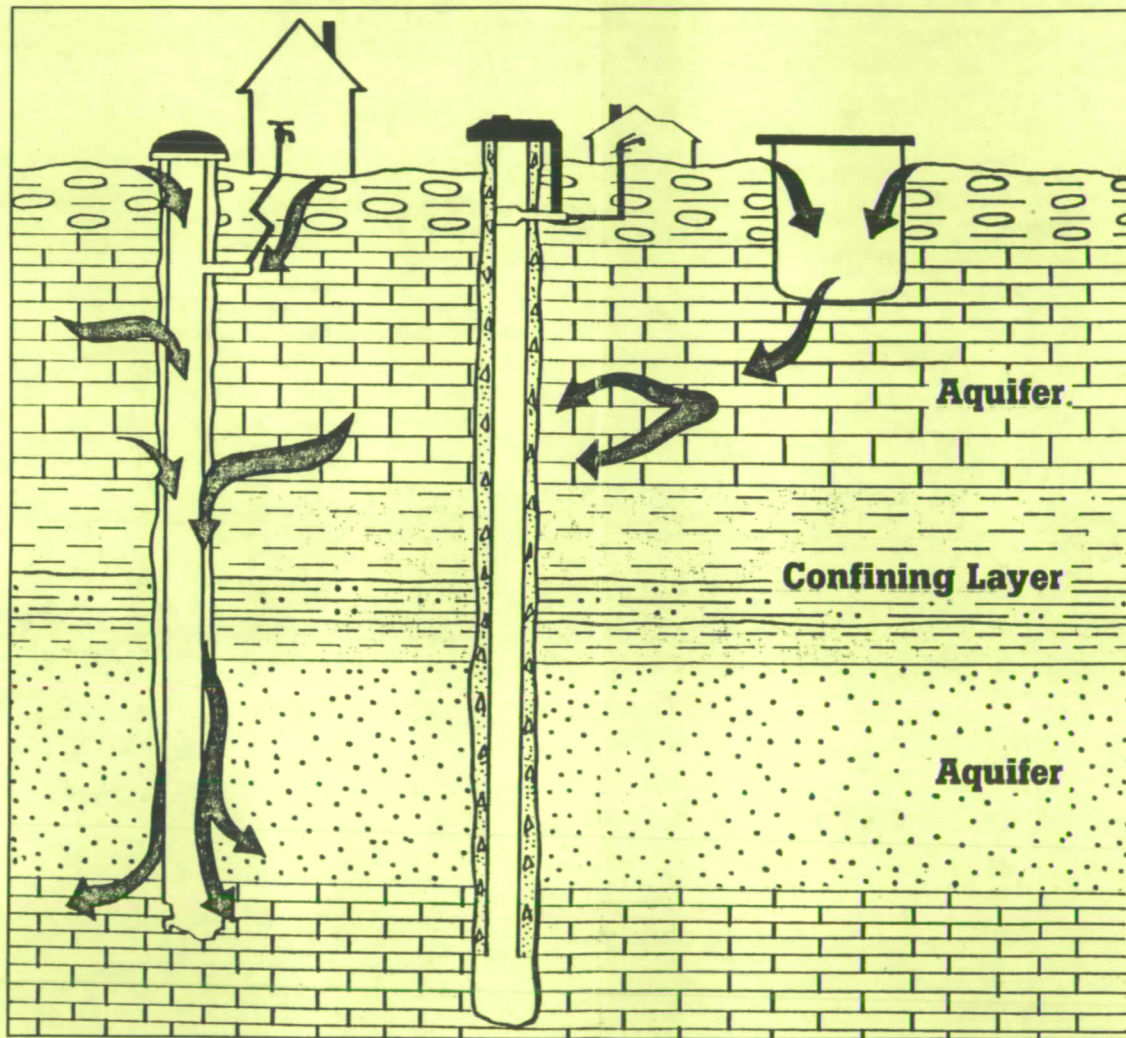


Illinois Water Well Sealing Coalition



SEAL
ABANDONED
WELLS

Wells and Routes of Contamination



From Left to Right:

Outdated Wells

Outdated wells pose risks to groundwater resources. Inadequately grouted wells allow surface contaminants to travel down the outside of the casing and into the well water.

Properly Constructed Drilled Wells

Modern, properly cased and grouted wells help assure that well water is adequately filtered by the earth before being drawn into the well.

Abandoned Wells

Abandoned, unused or improperly maintained, older bored wells have greater exposure to contamination sources. Also, the casing and cover often provide little or no security, posing safety risks to humans and animals.

Statements of Support

Illinois Association of Groundwater Professionals "Abandoned water wells pose the single greatest threat to Illinois' groundwater resource. Water well owners must be educated to the importance of properly sealing all abandoned or unused water wells. State and local governments must also take responsibility in seeing that current groundwater protection laws are enforced. Private/public partnership programs are needed to ensure that the thousands of wells abandoned in Illinois over the decades are properly sealed."

Illinois Association of Realtors® IAR "supports the IWWSC in its efforts to expand awareness and encourage compliance of the law which requires the sealing of an abandoned well within thirty days of its abandonment."

Illinois Chapter-Soil and Water Conservation Society "More effort should be placed on encouraging landowners to investigate, identify, and adequately seal abandoned wells. Landowners who receive assistance from natural resource agency personnel should be made aware of abandoned wells or active wells present on their property during site inventories, practice implementation, and follow-up status reviews. Natural resource agency personnel should make the landowner aware of their responsibilities for protecting human safety and water quality by properly sealing any hazardous well."

Illinois Department of Agriculture "Groundwater serves as the water source for three-fourths of Illinois communities. Many state industries including agriculture also rely upon these same groundwater supplies. It is of utmost importance that we all diligently preserve this valuable resource. The IDOA oversees several programs which encourage sealing unused wells, that, with the aid of rural Illinois' citizens, aim to provide sound environmental stewardship and improve the state's environmental outlook."

Illinois Department of Natural Resources "When IDNR receives new lands for management, we immediately identify and seal any abandoned wells, as responsible land managers do everywhere. We recognize the need to convince many land owners and managers that their old wells will never meet the current well codes and present an enormous liability. We, along with the State Water Survey and Geological Survey, applaud the work of the IWWSC in providing educational materials, a web page, an issues forum, and a commitment to expedite the sealing of abandoned wells. As the Coalition proceeds in developing its strategy, we pledge our support."

Illinois Environmental Health Association "We strongly support the efforts of the IWWSC to promote sealing of all abandoned wells through the use of education and promotion."

Illinois Department of Public Health "The Illinois Water Well Construction Code and Water Well Pump Installation Codes establish construction standards for water systems. Contractors engaged in constructing water wells and the installation of well pumps are licensed by the IDPH and new well installations are permitted and inspected by local health departments. However, the continued assurance of a safe groundwater supply requires the property owner and user to be knowledgeable about groundwater protection principles."

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency "The Illinois EPA supports the IWWSC and applauds their efforts to educate the public on the importance of preventing groundwater contamination and encouraging local implementation of groundwater protection programs."

Illinois Farm Bureau® "We believe that groundwater is a valuable resource and one that should be protected. Meetings and workshops have been and will continue to be held across the state dealing with groundwater and natural resource protection. County Farm Bureaus have encouraged and been involved with water testing programs. Groundwater brochures and displays have been developed by IFB to help farmers safeguard groundwater and urge sealing abandoned wells."

Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association "IFCA supports coordination and cooperation between citizens, business and government to develop educational programs and sensible regulatory approaches to identify and properly seal unused wells. We believe that this goal is achievable and necessary to ensure that Illinois' water resources are properly protected."

Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers "Our membership is well aware of the potential environmental hazards of abandoned wells and their inherent liability. We have been pro-active in locating and sealing abandoned wells, and it would be safe to say there are few abandoned wells on professionally managed farms that have not been sealed. We support the educational efforts of the IWWSC."

Illinois Groundwater Association "We fully support and encourage the efforts of the individuals and agencies active in groundwater protection through the sealing of abandoned wells in Illinois."

Background. An *abandoned well* is "no longer used to supply water or in such a state of disrepair that the well or boring has the potential for transmitting contaminants into an aquifer or otherwise threatens the public health or safety." *No one knows how many abandoned wells there are in Illinois, but we estimate the number is in the tens of thousands. Abandoned wells dot the Illinois landscape and present a threat to public safety and to groundwater quality.*

History of the Coalition

- 1987 Illinois Groundwater Protection Act passed.
- 1992 IWWSC formed.
- 1993 IWWSC supported local well sealing demonstrations.
- 1997 IWWSC reunited and expanded.

Purpose of the Coalition

The Coalition is working to reduce the hazards of abandoned wells by:

- ▶ raising awareness through education,
- ▶ expediting the sealing of abandoned wells,
- ▶ demonstrating proper well sealing and
- ▶ developing new legislation, if needed.

For more information, contact 217-782-5830
or go to the IWWSC web site at

[Http://dnr.state.il.us/orep/inrin/eq/well/trial.htm](http://dnr.state.il.us/orep/inrin/eq/well/trial.htm).

COALITION MEMBERS

Associations

Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives
Assn. of IL Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Community Bankers Association of Illinois
IL Assoc. of County Board Members & Comm.
Illinois Association of County Engineers
Illinois Association of Drainage Districts
Illinois Association of Groundwater Professionals*
Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators
Illinois Association of Realtors®
Illinois Assoc. of Resource Conserv. & Dev. Areas
Illinois Association of Vocational Ag Teachers
Illinois Chapter-Soil & Water Conservation Society
Illinois Coalition of Appraisal Professionals
Illinois Council on Best Management Practices*
Illinois Environmental Council
Illinois Environmental Health Association*
Illinois Farm Bureau®*
Illinois Farm News Association
Illinois Farmers Union
Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association*
Illinois Groundwater Association*
Illinois Groundwater Consortium
Illinois Insurance Association
Illinois Irrigation Association
IL Land Improvement Contractors Association*
Illinois Municipal League
Illinois Rural Water Association*
Illinois Science Teachers Association
Illinois-Section American Water Works Assoc.*
IL Society/Profess. Farm Mgrs. & Rural Appraisers
Illinois Water Authorities Association*
Township Officials of Illinois

State/Federal Agencies

Illinois Department of Agriculture*
Illinois Department of Natural Resources*
 Ofc. of Realty and Environmental Planning
 State Geological Survey
 State Water Survey
Illinois Department of Public Health*
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
United States Department of Agriculture
 Farm Service Agency
 Natural Resources Conservation Service
University of Illinois*
 Extension
 State 4-H Offices

* denotes IWWSC contributing sponsor

TEN GOOD REASONS TO SEAL AN ABANDONED WELL

1. GROUNDWATER PROTECTION
2. SAFETY
3. WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION
4. RESTORE FULL USE OF THE LAND
5. PEACE OF MIND
6. POTENTIAL LIABILITY
7. AESTHETIC VALUE
8. RESTORE THE ENVIRONMENT
9. RESPONSIBLE TRANSFER OF LAND
10. IT'S THE LAW!

Sealing a Water Well

Contact a licensed water well contractor
OR the local public health department.

- ▶ Measure the depth, diameter, and static water level of the well.
- ▶ Submit a well sealing plan to the local health department. (Call the Illinois Dept. of Public Health at 217-782-5830 for the local public health department nearest you.)
- ▶ Notify the local public health department at least 48 hours before sealing the well.
- ▶ Remove all material and debris from the well (pump, pipe, pump cylinder, electric cable, etc.). Use proper equipment, safety devices, and safety precautions.
- ▶ Disinfect the well, following the Illinois Water Well Code.
Seal the well according to an approved plan.
- ▶ Complete and submit a well sealing report to the local public health department not more than 30 days after the well is sealed.